

# Ottawa Free Trader.

OTTAWA, JULY 6, 1866.

## Fourth of July in Ottawa.

### The great Firemen's Tournament.

#### A GRAND SUCCESS.

Ottawa being a Democratic, and therefore truly patriotic city, always enters with political spirit into the celebration of the Nation's Great Anniversary day, the 4th of July. This year, however, the firemen having taken the matter in hand of getting up an unusual and brilliant celebration, the citizens resolved to get up no side affair that might interfere, but to join in heart and hand with the firemen, to make the demonstration as successful and creditable as possible. The plan worked well, only that the firemen had done their part so well that the help of the citizens was not particularly needed, and they filled the office of interested spectators.

Six fire companies, with their machines and hose carriages appeared on the ground to contest for the prizes offered: two from Peoria, one from Bloomington, one from Joliet, and two from Ottawa. Several more companies would have been present but for an unexpected hitch in making the proper arrangement with some railroad companies. Enough were present, however, to make a most imposing display and to get up an interesting contest.

The company from Joliet brought with them not only a fine band of music, but in the person of Hon. E. Porter, the chief of their fire department and mayor of the city, accompanied by Mr. Ryan, 1st Assistant Chief. The Peoria companies were under command of Ex-Scholar W. S. Still, an enthusiastic and accomplished fireman; and the Bloomington company was commanded by Engineers W. J. Chase, also a splendid fireman. The Ottawa companies tramped under their accomplished chief A. T. Dow, Esq.

#### THE PROCESSION.

At 10 o'clock, according to the printed programme, the procession was formed, the right resting on the corner of Jackson and Columbus, as follows:

**Joliet Band.**  
America Engine Co., No. 1—Joliet.  
Hose Carriage.  
Germania Engine Co., No. 7—Peoria.  
Hose Carriage.  
Underline Engine Co., No. 2—Ottawa.  
Hose Carriage.  
Deshaire Engine Co., Ottawa.  
New Peoria Engine Co., No. 4—Peoria.  
Hose Carriage.  
Niagara Falls Engine Co., 1—Ottawa.  
Hose Carriage.  
McLean Engine Co., No. 2—Bloomington.  
Young America Hose Carriage.

The procession, which was quarter of a mile in length, and presented a brilliant sight, passed over the route indicated in the programme, and returning, in about an hour, to the starting point, was disbanded.

Time was now given the men to get dinner and other refreshments, for which our firemen had made ample provision.

At one o'clock, p. m., the signal was again sounded, and the various companies with their engines, &c., proceeded to the spot selected for the Tournament, which was on Madison street, near the swing bridge at Armour's Warehouse.

To the very exact idea of the contest which now took place, and to enter into the numerous exciting incidents of which such a war, witnessed by ten thousand citizens, and continuing some four hours, was naturally possible, would occupy vastly more space than we have at command. It is enough to say, the emulation, though in the highest degree spirited, was maintained with the utmost good humor and the most chivalrous generosity on all sides. Did the love of one company, in the immense strain upon it, break, the other companies, with eager like eagerness, offered to lend their own, and so in all other matters, we saw no sign of a disposition to take an unfair advantage of any man.

#### THE CONTRACT.

Four engines entered the list for the prizes for the 1st class, as named below. The 1st prize was \$200, the 2d \$125, in "greenbacks." The result of the racing, as reported by the judges, was as follows:

1st The American No. 1, Joliet, (Button) 170 ft. 4½ sec.  
2d Germania No. 7, Peoria, (Hose) 170 ft. 5 sec.  
3d New Peoria No. 4, Peoria, (Hose) 170 ft. 5 sec.  
4th New Peoria No. 2, Bloomington, (Hose) 170 ft. 5 sec.

Two machines entered for prizes in 2d class, viz. \$175 and \$150. Judges reported the following results:

1st Niagara Falls, (Engine) 180 ft. 7¾ sec.  
2d McLean No. 2, Bloomington, (Hose) 180 ft. 7¾ sec.

But one engine played for sweepstakes—America No. 1, Joliet (Hose) 180 ft. 9¾ sec.

Judges reported that one engine competing, and the prize of \$75 was awarded to that machine.

**NATIONAL FINANCES.**

The contest for Hose Carriages was as follows:

1st Niagara No. 1, Ottawa, for informality.  
2d Young America, Bloomington, time 1:15  
3d Germania No. 7, Peoria, " 1:15  
4th New Peoria, Peoria, " 1:15

Judges awarded the 1st prize to McLean, Bloomington, \$50; and the 2d prize to New Peoria, Peoria, \$25.

From the lateness of the hour at which the judges had made up their reports, the prizes could not be presented at the Court House steps as advertised, but were presented to the officers of the different companies entitled to the same.

After this the engineers and officers from abroad held a meeting, and passed a vote of thanks to the Firemen and citizens of Ottawa, for their generous entertainment. We also understand that some important proceedings were had at this meeting looking to a general organization of the firemen of the northern half of the State, for the purpose of promoting good fellowship among them, increasing their usefulness, and adapting a more systematic plan for having annual reviews, tournaments, &c. Unfortunately, we have been unable to get hold of these proceedings for publication in this connection.

Our visitors generally left us in the evening, in the highest spirits, evidently satisfied with the sports of the day, and we hope with kindly feelings toward the firemen and citizens of Ottawa, who, whether they succeeded or not, at least had no thought but to make their visit a pleasant one.

#### Suicide of Gen. Lane.

A dispatch from Leavenworth, Kansas, on Monday brought intelligence that Senator James H. Lane had committed suicide at that city on Sunday by shooting himself in the mouth with pistol. He was in a state of temporary insanity when the deed was committed. At least accounts he was still alive, but the doctors unanimously pronounced his wound fatal.

Up to the present writing, however, there is no announcement of his death.

### The Constitutional Amendment.

The Republican party, not daring to go before the people on the question of universal negro suffrage, have presented for issue in the elections next fall, as the next thing to it, the constitutional amendment proposing to base representation in Congress, not on voters, for that would take from New York and New England and give to the western 32 congressmen, but on "voting population." This is a new term in politics. Our fathers fought the Revolution on the principle of "taxation and representation"—that is, that representation should be based upon and equal with taxation. Other political economists and philosophers, however, maintain that instead of taxation, a more just and rational basis of representation is political power—their word is, the number of legal voters; and this was the principle which the committee of fifteen first attempted to embody in the proposed amendments. As originally presented, their proposal that north and south, the apportionment of representatives in Congress should be in proportion to the number of legal voters. This plan would have been adopted but for the discovery, by New England, that the 39 or 40 representatives which the north would gain from the south by this system, the west would get at least three to New England one. So the principle of voters was rejected and "voting population" adopted.

A few figures will show how this principle operates to the advantage of New England against the west. Taking the last presidential election as the basis for the number of voters, and on this principle, shall have in Illinois, 1 Representative to 22,000 voters. In Wisconsin 1 " 24,024 " In Massachusetts 1 " 15,073 " In Rhode Island 1 " 10,600 " This makes the inequality between the East and West to that which existed before the rebellion between the north and the south under the old 3/5ths rule as to negroes, when the abolitionists used to tell us that one southern vote was equal two northern votes.

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